U.S. Small Business Administration

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It's Your Business

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Helping small businesses start, grow and succeed.



Your Small Business Resource



EMERGING 200 BOSTON: SEEKING THE NEXT CLASS OF GRADUATES

The Massachusetts SBA is currently searching for 20 Boston area Businesses desiring to take their business to the next level by becoming a part of the Emerging 200 Leaders executive training initiative. This is an amazing opportunity for a small business to become part of a select group of entrepreneurs through this intensive program. The program is free of charge and will run from April, 2011 to November, 2011.

Small businesses from the Boston area will be part of the local SBA e200 initiative. Companies that will benefit the most from the program should be in business for at least three years and have revenues of roughly \$400,000. Companies will be selected on a first come first served basis. Therefore, time is of the essence in letting us know of your interest. If you would like to be a part of the e200 Emerging Leaders Class of 2011, please contact David Polatin at 617-565-5562.

OFFICE OF ADVOCACY: MEET THE NEW REGIONAL ADVOCATE

Ms. Lynn Bromley is the new Regional Advocate for the Office of Advocacy's Region I, covering the states of Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. She is the Office of Advocacy's direct link to small business owners, state and local government agencies, state legislators, trade and small business associations

"The majority of job creation occurs in small businesses," said Bromley. "Advocacy's mission is to assure that the concerns and well-being of small businesses are on the front burner in Washington, D.C. Small business owners are heroes, in my opinion, and I'm honored to bring their voice to Washington."



Prior to her appointment, Bromley was the principal in Audax Group LLC, a Maine consulting practice specializing in business development and private/public partnerships. From January 2000 to December 2008, she served as a senator in the Maine Legislature where she was chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development. In addition Bromley was cochair of the Maine Economic Growth Council. She has a master's degree in Social Work from Boston College and a bachelor of arts degree from Bridgewater State College..

Advocacy is an independent voice for small business within the federal government and is the watchdog for the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA). Advocacy advances the views and concerns of small business before Congress, the White House, the federal agencies, the federal courts and state policy makers. The regional advocates are the nerve system connecting the chief counsel with the concerns of small businesses around the country.

For more information on the Office of Advocacy, visit <u>www.sba.gov/advo</u>. To reach Lynn Bromley, call 617-565-8418.

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FOLLOW Us...

Recently, the SBA announced an expanded online presence with the creation of Twitter accounts and Facebook pages devoted to its 10 regional offices throughout the country.

With the expansion to its regional offices, the SBA is trying to reach more businesses with localespecific information enhancing efforts to ensure entrepreneurs have access to the tools and information they need to start and grow their small business and create jobs.

Find us at:

Region I_New England

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont





Look who's lending...

Workers' Credit Union was named the Massachusetts Lender of the Quarter for the quarter ending December 31, 2010.

The credit union processed ten SBA loans representing over \$2 million, which ranked them in the top 15 lenders in the state for the quarter.

Workers' Credit Union has been an approved SBA lender for three years.

Workers' Credit Union, founded in 1914, is headquartered in Fitchburg, and serves over 67,000 members from 14 offices, including Lancaster.

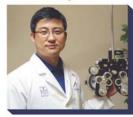


Anne Rice Hunt from the U.S. Small **Business Administration** congratulates Workers' Credit Union's Dave Rodgers (center), Bob Gallo (left) and Brenda Ring (right) for their small business lending volume.

OBS ACT TOUR

Coming to your city soon with new tools for your small business.







Meet with leaders from SBA and give input on new regulations and learn how you can take advantage of new tools, including:

- getting an SBA loan
- competing for federal contracts
- finding a mentor, counselor or training
- starting or increasing exports

We'll explain how to use these new tools. And we want your input on regulations, and how we can help you grow your business and create jobs.



Join us at one of 13 nationwide events!

Visit www.sba.gov/jobsacttour for more information and to RSVP.



JOBS ACT TOUR- BOSTON, MA- 4/1

O'neill Federal Building

10 Causeway Street Boston, MA 02222

To RSVP, please email your: Name Business/Organization; Email Address; Phone Number; Mailing Address and your Breakout Session Interests (One for each time slot) about each attendee from your business to: raymond.milano@sba.gov. For more information about the tour and to see more details on the breakout sessions go to: www.sba.gov/jobsacttour/boston.